

Bush proposes \$1 billion to improve testing of DNA

The Bush administration yesterday proposed a \$1 billion program to improve DNA testing in criminal cases to help identify the guilty while protecting the innocent from wrongful prosecution.

federal funding in fiscal 2004 and similar levels through 2008.

"Clearly, DNA has the power to convict the guilty and protect the innocent," he said.

Ashcroft said he was confident Congress would approve the spending request, despite questions over budgets at a time of rising deficits and a looming costly war with Iraq.

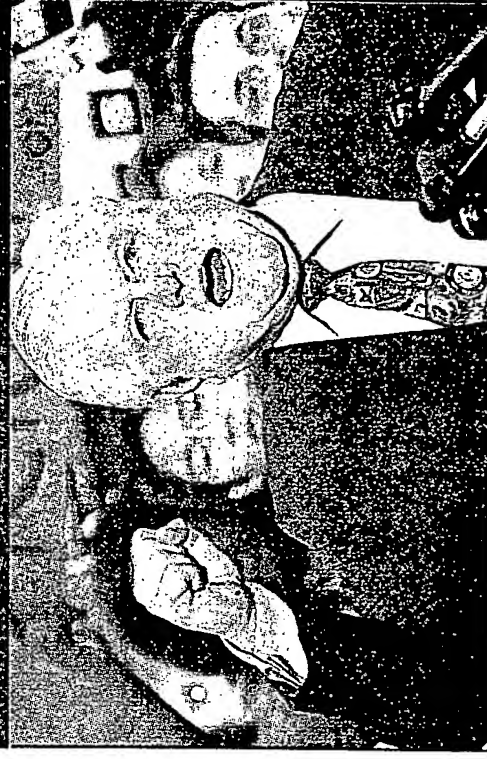
The attorney general said the money would go to reducing huge backlogs of DNA samples collected

from rape victims and homicide crime scenes. It would help boost lab capacity, increase training and fund technology research.

The National Institute of Justice estimates there are now about 350,000 samples from rape and homicide cases waiting to be tested. In addition, there are between 200,000 and 300,000 untested DNA samples from convicted felons, and up to one million more genetic samples have not yet been collected.

(Reuters)

KENNEDY SPEAKS AT STUDENT RALLY



Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) speaks at a rally of United States Student Association members yesterday on Capitol Hill. Hundreds of students are lobbying Congress to expand access to, and increase appropriations for, higher education.

(Getty Images)

MAKING HEADLINES AROUND THE COUNTRY

Dolphins pregnant, scientists rejoicing

Chicago Tribune. Marine biologists at Chicago's Shedd Aquarium are celebrating the pregnancy of two of its resident dolphins, Kri and Tique. Shedd officials said scientists used a new artificial insemination process to impregnate the two 18-year-old Pacific white-sided dolphins. The process was necessary because there are only two Pacific white-sided dolphins in the United States. Kri and Tique are five months' pregnant, and they are expected to give birth in the autumn.

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